

REMARKS

Claims 89, 91-221 and 232-294 are pending in this application. Claims 140-221 and 232-294 are allowed. Claims 295-340 are withdrawn from consideration and are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. By this Amendment, claims 89, 107, 112, 113, 122 and 127 are amended. Further, claims 90 and 222-231 are also canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 13, on page 16, the Office Action indicates that claims 90, 112, 113, 122 and 127 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, the allowable subject matter of claim 90 is incorporated into independent claim 89, and claim 90 is canceled. Thus, claim 89 contains allowable subject matter. Further, claims 112, 113, 122 and 127 are amended to be in independent form and to include the subject matter of base claim 89 and the respective intervening claims. Thus, claims 112, 113, 122 and 127 are allowable. Further, claim 107 is amended to depend from claim 112.

On pages 2-16, the Office Action rejects claims 89, 91-97, 101, 107, 120, 121, 123-126, 133-137 and 139 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura et al. (Vadura), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0195323, in view of Mandel et al. (Mandel), U.S. Patent No. 5,752,697; rejects claim 100 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Gauss, U.S. Patent No. 4,880,202; rejects claims 222, 223, 225-228, 230 and 231 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Spitzer, U.S. Patent No. 5,299,436; rejects claim 229 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Spitzer and in further view of Gauss; Action rejects claims 98 and 99 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Spitzer; rejects claims 102-106 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Kenji, U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2003/0030657, and Caputo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/00051368; rejects claims 108-111, 114, 115 and 130-132 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Nomura et al. (Nomura), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0171681; rejects claim 116 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Kobayashi et al. (Kobayashi), U.S. Patent No. 6,232,993; rejects claims 118, 119 and 138 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Brown, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0047596; rejects claims 128 and 129 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Mandel and in further view of Harris, U.S. Patent No. 5,871,615; and rejects claim 224 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Vadura in view of Spitzer and in further view of Kenji and Caputo. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 89 recites the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 90. Claims 91-106, 114-121, 123-126 and 128-139 depend from claim 89. Thus, because claims 89, 91-106, 114-121, 123-126 and 128-139 include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 90, the combination of the various references fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of these claims. Further, claims 112, with claims 107-111 depending from claim 112, 113, 122 and 127, as amended, are allowable, as discussed above. Thus, the combination of the various references fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of these claims either.

The rejections of claims 222-231 are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 222, 223, 225-228, 230 and 231.

Thus, it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

It is noted that the Examiner did not consider references 18, 22, 27, 39 and 40 contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 25, 2005 because references 18, 22, 39 and 40 allegedly did not list a month and reference 27 did not list a month or a year.

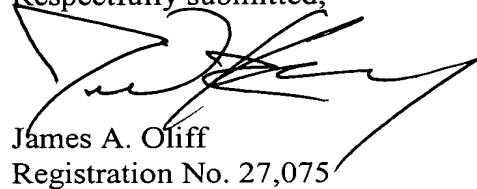
However, the month for reference 22 is March (see date under title: "3/93"). With respect to references 18, 39 and 40, it is respectfully asserted that these references are still prior art regardless of the month they were published during their respective years. The Examiner may designate the month of December for these references as their publication dates can not be any later than December of the respective years. With respect to reference 27, please use December 25, 2001.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested the Examiner considered references 18, 22, 27, 39 and 40 and provide Applicants' undersigned representatives with a fully initialed supplemental PTO Form 1449.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 89, 91-139, in addition to previously allowed claims 140-221 and 232-294, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 13, 2006

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